



## **Life Group Leader's Guide: Introduction to Hebrews Wk1**

### **Icebreaker:**

**Question:** "What is one book of the Bible you find challenging to understand and why?"

**Activity:** Have each member share their favorite Bible verse and explain why it is meaningful to them.

### **Quick Summary:**

The Book of Hebrews, written around 63-65 AD, is a profound and complex text that reads more like a sermon than a letter. It emphasizes that God is speaking to us through His Son, Jesus Christ. The book highlights three main themes: special communication from God, serious cautions against drifting away, and spiritual challenges to grow in faith and maturity.

### **Discussion & Questions:**

#### **Special Communication:**

**1. God is Speaking:** From Genesis to Revelation, God has consistently communicated with humanity. Hebrews 1:1-2 emphasizes that God, who spoke through the prophets, now speaks to us through His Son, Jesus Christ. This divine communication is meant to draw us closer to Him.

**2. Jesus' Finished Work:** Jesus is described as the Son of God, the exact imprint of God's nature, and the radiance of God's glory. He is superior to angels and Moses, serving as our eternal high priest and perfect sacrifice. His work on the cross was once for all, and He now sits at the right hand of God, interceding for us.

**3. The Holy Spirit's Role: The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus and warns us not to turn away from Him. He is involved in the inspiration of Scripture, the ministry of Christ, and the transformation of believers' lives.**

- How does Hebrews 1:1-2 describe God's communication with humanity?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the "exact imprint of God's nature" and the "radiance of God's glory"?

### **Serious Cautions:**

**1. Danger of Drifting Away (Hebrews 2:1-4): We must pay close attention to the gospel to avoid drifting away. Neglecting this message can lead to spiritual peril.**

**2. Danger of Unbelief (Hebrews 3:7-4:13): An unbelieving heart can lead us to fall away from the living God. We must guard against this by trusting in God's promises.**

**3. Danger of Falling Away (Hebrews 5:11-6:12): This passage warns of the impossibility of restoring those who have fallen away after having once been enlightened. It emphasizes the seriousness of apostasy.**

**4. Danger of Willful Sinning (Hebrews 10:26-31): Deliberate sinning after receiving the truth leads to a fearful expectation of judgment. We must resist the temptation to continue in sin.**

**5. Danger of Refusing God's Word (Hebrews 12:25-29): Ignoring God's voice, which now comes through Jesus, leads to dire consequences. We must heed His warnings.**

- What are some dangers mentioned in Hebrews that believers should be aware of (e.g., drifting away, unbelief, falling away)?
- How can we guard against these dangers in our own lives?

### **Spiritual Challenges:**

**1. Enduring in Faith: Amidst trials, we are called to remain steadfast in our faith, trusting that God's promises will be fulfilled.**

**2. Resisting Spiritual Drift: We must be vigilant to avoid taking our salvation for granted and drifting away from God.**

**3. Moving Towards Spiritual Maturity:** We are encouraged to grow beyond basic teachings and strive for maturity through knowledge and obedience.

**4. Avoiding Hardness of Heart:** We must guard against hardening our hearts through unbelief or disobedience, using Israel's rebellion as a warning.

**5. Holding Firm to Christ:** We must resist the temptation to return to old religious practices or legalism, trusting that Christ's sacrifice is sufficient for salvation.

- What does it mean to endure in faith amidst trials?
- How can we move towards spiritual maturity and avoid spiritual drift?

**Application Questions:**

1. As we study Hebrews, what will you do to prepare your heart to listen to God?
2. Would you characterize your life as drifting or drawing near to God at this time?
3. How has God already been speaking to you, and how have you responded?
4. What steps can you take to move towards spiritual maturity and avoid spiritual drift?

**Prayer Prompt:**

Encourage the group to spend a few moments in silent prayer, asking God to help them see Jesus more clearly and to strengthen their faith. Then, close with a group prayer:

**Group Prayer:**

"Heavenly Father, thank You for speaking to us through Your Word and through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to listen attentively and respond obediently to Your voice. Guard our hearts against unbelief and drifting away. Strengthen our faith and lead us towards spiritual maturity. May we hold firmly to the hope we have in Christ, trusting in His finished work on the cross. Cleanse the eyes of our hearts so that we may see Jesus more clearly and persevere in our faith. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."